

MEDIA RELEASE

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CCC investigation leads to a custodial officer being jailed for corruption

A 33-year-old custodial officer has been sentenced to four years' imprisonment following a cooperative investigation by the Corruption and Crime Commission, the WA Police Force and the Department of Corrective Services (now the Department of Justice).

Scott Berridge was sentenced yesterday in Perth's District Court for smuggling drugs, mobile phones and other contraband into Casuarina Prison – much of it in his underpants and shoes – and supplying them to a prisoner for cash.

The corruption occurred over the course of a year between March 2015 and February 2016.

The WA Police Force and CCC investigation commenced in early 2016, with the CCC providing analytical and investigative support to the operation. The successful cooperative investigation involved a prisoner on remand and connections outside the prison.

As well as official corruption, Mr Berridge was also convicted for supplying a prohibited drug (cannabis) and failing to observe the conditions of a licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

Yesterday's sentencing follows another joint investigation in December 2017 conducted by the Corruption and Crime Commission, Department of Justice, and WA Police Force where two custodial officers were sacked for having improper associations with prisoners and allegedly facilitating drugs and contraband into prisons. Further investigations are continuing.

Custodial officers and others within the prison system are urged to come forward and notify the Commission if they suspect drugs and contraband are being smuggled into WA prisons. Information provided to the Commission can be made anonymously and will be treated confidentially.

To make an allegation, please contact the Corruption and Crime Commission on 1800 809 000 or visit www.ccc.wa.gov.au.

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